



Pet Ownership vs. Human-Animal Interaction (HAI)

What is a pet or companion animal?

- Pets, or companion animals, provide people with love, companionship, and joy.
- While they do provide scientifically-documented benefits to our health and wellness, pets are not afforded special access to public facilities or businesses.

Prevalence of pet ownership in society

- 68% of U.S. households, or about 85 million families own a pet, an increase from 56% in 1988
- 98% of pet owners consider their pet an important part of the family

What is the Human-Animal Bond?

- The Human-Animal Bond (HAB) is “a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and other animals that is influenced by behaviors that are essential to the health and well-being of both.” (JAVMA, 1998)

What is Human-Animal Interaction (HAI)?

- Human-Animal Interaction (HAI) is:
 - a broad term referring to any manner of involvement, observation, relationship or connection between a person and a non-human animal.
 - the scientific study of, or applied practice including, aspects of the HAB.